



Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT Glossary: Biological Resources

The following terms (relating to biological resources) were obtained from BLM documents, other federal agencies, and academic books.

Alien Species: With respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

Biodiversity: The variety of life and its processes, and the interrelationships within and among various levels of ecological organization.

Biological Community: The living part of an ecosystem. Communities change with succession, thereby forming distinctive ecological units both in time and space. The plant community and the animal community together form the biotic community. Size is not implied (i.e., organisms associated with a decaying log or with an entire forest each represent communities).

Conserve/Conservation Strategy: A strategy outlining current activities or threats that are contributing to the decline of a species, along with the actions or strategies needed to reverse or eliminate such a decline or threats. Conservation strategies are generally developed for species of plants and animals that are designated as BLM Sensitive Species or that have been determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to require protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Critical Habitat: Specific areas designated for the survival and recovery of Federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Ecosystem: Any area or volume in which there is an exchange of matter and energy between living and nonliving parts; that is, the biotic community together with soil, air, water, and sunlight form an ecosystem.

Endangered Species: A plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions in a geographic area(s) that surrounds a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are food, water, cover, and living space.

Habitat Corridors: A strip or block of habitat connecting otherwise isolated units of similar habitat that allows the dispersal of organisms and the consequent mixing of genes.

Habitat Fragmentation: The division of large, contiguous areas of habitat into smaller patches isolated from one another.

Invasive Species: An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Landscape: An aggregate of different but interacting landforms, sometimes united by a cultural attribute (e.g., a mosaic of farmland, including tilled fields, woodlots, stock ponds, swales, and fencerows). Landscape ecology generally operates at a scale of at least many hectares or, more often, several square kilometers.

Native Species: With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

Noxious Weeds: Plant species that have been legally designated as unwanted or undesirable. This includes national, state, and county or local designations. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Law, native plant species are not designated “noxious.” Native plant species that may be of a management concern, such as poisonous plants or desert shrub and sub-shrub species, are not considered priorities for noxious weed work or funding.

Restore/Restoration: The process of restoring site conditions as they were before land disturbance. Note: restoration involves restoring a site to a specific point in time.

Riparian Habitat: An area of land directly influenced by permanent (surface or subsurface) water. They have visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence.

Sensitive Species: Species not yet officially listed but that are undergoing status review for listing on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official threatened and endangered list; species whose populations are small and widely dispersed or restricted to a few localities; and species whose numbers are declining so rapidly that official listing may be necessary.

Special Status Species: Wildlife and plant species either Federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened; State-listed or BLM determined priority species.

Threatened Species: Any animal or plant species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all of a significant portion of its range.

Viable: A [wildlife] population that has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence.

Watershed: The land area that drains water to a particular stream, river, or lake. It is a land feature that can be identified by tracing a line along the highest elevations between two areas on a map, often a ridge.

Weed: A nonnative plant that disrupts or has the potential to disrupt or alter the natural ecosystem function, composition, and diversity of the site it occupies. Its presence deteriorates the health of the site, it makes efficient use of natural resources difficult, and it may interfere with management objectives for that site.